(c) There is no Government control on prices of automobiles including two-wheeler scooters and as such the question of obtaining Government approval does not arise.

(d) The increase in prices of two-wheelers over the past 4-5 years has not been excessive in comparison to increase in the general price index and that of inputs like steel, aluminium, non-ferous metals, tyres etc.

Refusal of Performance Guarantee by Haldor Topse for Thal-Vaishet Plant

521. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the multi-national firm—Haldor Topse, a Danish fertilizers consultancy firm refused to give performance guarantees for the Thal-Vaishet Plant in case the public sector organisation—PDIL's catalyst were used in the plant;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the PDIL, which is an independent competitor in the field of catalysts, has captured the Indian market; and

(c) what action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (c) In terms of the agreement between M/s. Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers ((RCF) and M|s. Haldor Topse for consultancy and related services for the Amonia Plant of the Thal-Vaishet Fertilizer Project, the performance guarantees are subject to the Amonia Plant being loaded with the catalysts of consultants, make or those approved by the consultants. M/s. Haldor Topse did not approve use of the catalysts manufactured by M/s. PDIL. However, after negotiations Haldor Topse agreed to give performance guarantee to the second stream of Ammonia plant in which most of the catalysts were from PDIL subject to satisfactory performance of the PDIL catalysts. After protracted negotiations with Topse, they have agreed to give guarantees with catalysts of others' make incluuding PDIL for specified category of catalysts in the subsequent gas based plants where their technology has been used.

(b) The market share of PDIL's catalysts has increased over the years.

Requirement of Chemicals

522. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of the total requirement of Chemicals is indigenously manufactured;

(b) whether Government are aware that due to want of Chemicals the research work in the country will be greatly hampered; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c) Sufficient capacity has been installed| licensed by Government to meet largely the indigenous demand of Chemicals. As such, the question of quality of research being affected due to shortage of chemicals does not arise. Nor as any such report been received by Government.